GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:130
ANSWERED ON:07.12.1999
NATIONAL POLICY ON PROHIBITION OF LIQUOR .
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated/proposed to formulate any Nationalpolicy on prohibition of liquor consumption in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any objections from State Governments in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
SMT. MANEKA GANDHI
(a), (b) & (c): Article 47 of the Constitution of India provides that the State shallendeavour to bring about prohibition in the country. However, since production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of the intoxicating liquor falls under Entry N0.8 of the List II (State List) of the 7th Schedule to the Constitution, it isfor the State Governments to take appropriate steps for implementation of prohinition. The Government of India acts as a catalyst in persuading the states to take up measuresfor imposition of prohibition, generate awareness amongst the masses and provide services for rehabilitation of the alcoholics. In this regard a 12 point Minimum Programme was announced in 1975 followed by detailed guidelines to the State Governments in 1978 to take immediate and effective steps towards achieving total prohibition in the country. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is also implementing the grant-in-aid Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance(Drugs) Abuse, wherein financial assistance is provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations for awareness generation, preventive education, detoxification and rehabilitation of the addicts. At the end of the year 1998-99, financial assistance has been provided to 339 Non-Governmental Organisations for operating 193 Counselling and Awareness Centres and 229 Treatment-cum-Rehabilitaiton Centres all over the country.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) & (f) Does not arise.